

H.F. 2950

As Introduced

Subject Crisis online learning and teacher licenses

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Overview

This bill modifies the Online Learning Options Act by allowing districts and charter schools to adopt a crisis online learning plan subject to certain conditions. Makes temporary changes to e-learning day requirements, short-call substitute teacher license requirements, and Tier 3 license requirements. Allows a person with a lapsed teacher license to teach.

Summary

Section Description

1 Crisis online learning. [Online Learning Options Act]

Defines "crisis online learning," "crisis learning period," and "crisis online learning plan" for purposes of the Online Learning Options Act. Allows a district or charter school to adopt a crisis online learning plan. The plan must describe how crisis online learning and critical components of education will be provided, and meet certain other requirements. Critical components include nutrition services, and teacher accessibility.

2 Crisis e-learning.

Allows a school district or charter school to adopt up to five e-learning days during the 2021-2022 school year without meeting the following requirements: consultation with teachers, and notice to parents of the e-learning day plan at the beginning of the school year.

Requires a district and charter school to accommodate students without Internet access at home, and provide digital devices for families without the technology or insufficient technology or accessible options for students receiving special education services.

Effective date: This section is effective immediately and expires on June 30, 2022.

Section Description

3 Short-call substitute teacher pilot.

Allows a school district or charter school and an applicant to jointly request that the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB) issue the applicant a short-call substitute teacher license to teach in any content area. The applicant must meet one of the following requirements: has an associate's degree or equivalent; is enrolled in a teacher preparatory program; or has been employed as an education support personnel or paraprofessional for at least one academic year, and has a high school diploma or equivalent. The district or charter school must provide substitute training to the applicant, and request the background check required for all employees.

Allows PELSB to issue a temporary teaching license pending the background check required for all teacher license applicants, and to immediately suspend or revoke the license based on the background check results.

Requires PELSB to issue or deny a license within five business days of receiving a complete application, except between June 15 and September 1, 2022.

Limits an assignment to replace a teacher of record to 15 consecutive school days. An applicant who is granted a license because they are enrolled in a teacher preparation program is limited to two days per school week, and must receive credit toward student teaching hours requirements.

Effective date: This section is effective immediately and expires February 15, 2023.

4 Educator lapsed license initiative.

Allows an individual whose teaching license has lapsed to accept a teaching position. The individual must meet renewal requirements for the continuing license by June 30, 2023.

Effective date: This section is effective immediately and expires June 30, 2023.

5 Conditional Tier 3 licensure.

Requires PELSB to issue a one-year conditional Tier 3 license to an applicant who:

- completed a Minnesota teacher preparation program between July 31, 2021, and June 30, 2025;
- is otherwise qualified under section 122A.183; and
- has not yet passed a required licensure exam, provided that the applicant passes the required exams within one year of being granted a license.

Section Description

Requires a district or charter school to provide support to a teacher working toward passing the licensure exam. Limits the term of a conditional Tier 3 license to two years. Requires PELSB to waive the license renewal fee.

This section expires June 30, 2025.



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